百日の薔薇

hyakujitsu no bara

MAIDEN ROSE

volume 3, chapters 14-15

fusanosuke inariya

稲荷家房之介

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thanks to-
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【これまでのあらすじ】

兵器の購入や使い方を学ぶため、貴重から機甲学校に留学してきたタキの真意を探るため、クラウスは学友として近づき監視することを命ぜられる。学校の「伝統」という名の荒っぽい歓迎から、タキを守ろうと駆けつけたクラウスが見たのは、かかってくる者を一掃するタキの姿で。

YOU RE

REALLY GOING

BROTHER?

日日の蕾薇

YURA
EVERY-ONE...
IT'S ONLY TWO YEARS
AND I'LL COME BACK FOR WINTER BREAK
REALLY?!
HAS BIG BROTHER EVER LIED TO YOU BEFORE?
DO AS YOUR SISTER YURA TELLS YOU.
AND BE GOOD
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
...
I'M CAUSING YOU TROUBLE WITH MY ABSENCE

I WILL!
TACHI-BANA
TAKE CARE OF EVERY-ONE FOR ME
STAY CLOSE BY
MOTHER'S SIDE PLEASE
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ANYTHING
THE CHAMBER-LAIN'S STAFF MISSES
YES
NO-
TACHIBANA-YOU'RE BEING A BIT DRAMATIC...
I'LL PROTECT YURA-SAMA'S FAMILY
EVEN IF IT COSTS MY LIFE
IT'S EXACTLY AS EXPECTED OF SOMEONE FROM TACHI-BANA'S HOUSE IT PUTS MY MIND AT EASE
BROTHER!
WELL I'LL BE GOING THEN
PLEASE RETURN STRAIGHT HOME

I WILL

HYAKUJITSU NO BARA

百日の薔薇

MAIDEN ROSE

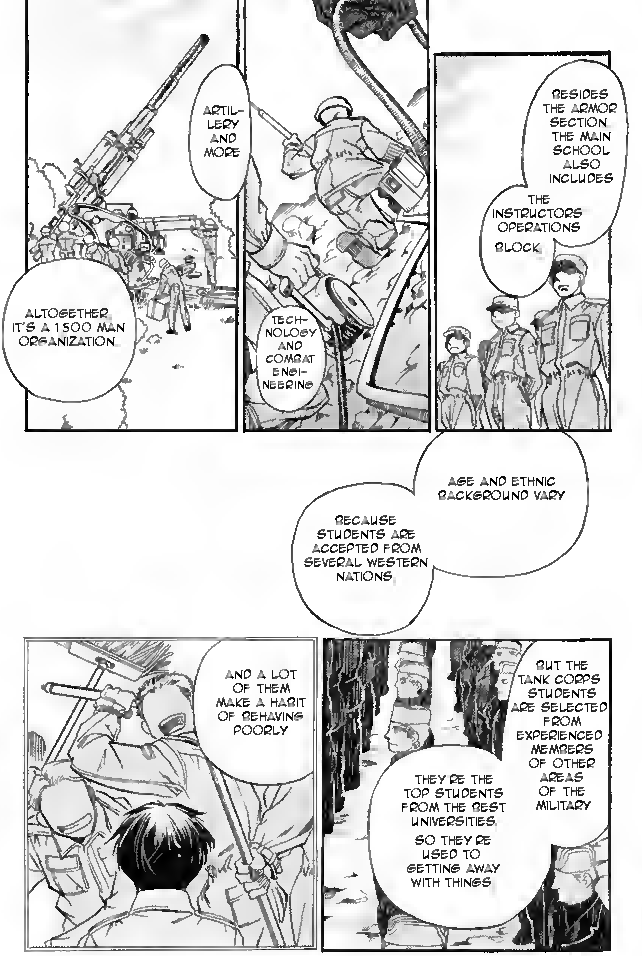
the prelude
to their intertwined fate
plays out-

稲荷家房之介
Fusanosuke Inariya

NEWS

「百日の薔薇」のOVA化が決定!!!
詳細は同時コミックアクア内でお知らせしていきます♪　お楽しみに♥

SOMETHING WRONG?
NO
SURPRISED AT THE BUILDINGS?
BUT THE BUILDINGS HERE WERE ORIGINALLY A MONASTERY AND ARE BEING USED UNMODIFIED.
LUCKENWALDE ARMOR SCHOOL
HAS VARIOUS EXTENSIONS.


ARTIL-LERY AND MORE
ALTOGETHER, IT'S A 1500 MAN ORGANIZATION.
TECH-NOLOGY AND COMBAT ENGI-NEERING
BESIDES THE ARMOR SECTION, THE MAIN SCHOOL ALSO INCLUDES
THE INSTRUCTORS OPERATIONS BLOCK.
AGE AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND VARY
BECAUSE STUDENTS ARE ACCEPTED FROM SEVERAL WESTERN NATIONS.
AND A LOT OF THEM MAKE A HABIT OF BEHAVING POORLY
BUT THE TANK CORPS STUDENTS ARE SELECTED FROM EXPERIENCED MEMBERS OF OTHER AREAS OF THE MILITARY
THEY'RE THE TOP STUDENTS FROM THE BEST UNIVERSITIES.
SO THEY'RE USED TO GETTING AWAY WITH THINGS

I VE HAD A TASTE OF IT ALREADY THANKS

HA HA HA SO YOU HAVE

SO WATCH YOUR BACK

KLAUS

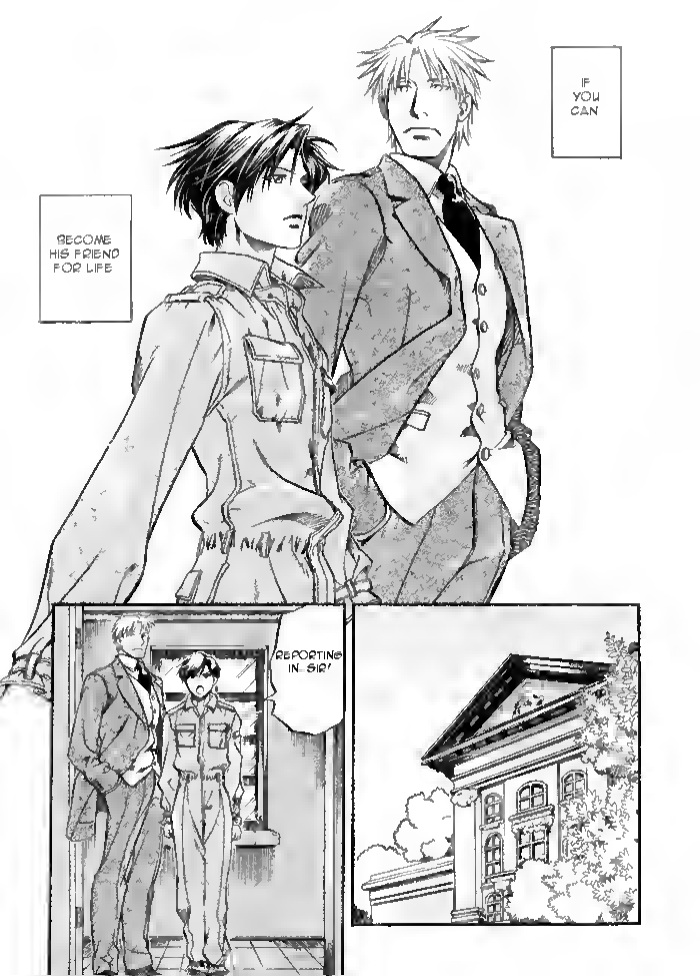
YOUR JOB

WILL BE TO GET CLOSE TO HIM

OBSERVE AND PROTECT HIM FOR US

HE S SO SMALL

AND WIN HIS FRIENDSHIP


IF YOU CAN
BECOME HIS FRIEND FOR LIFE
REPORTING IN, SIR!

AH REIZEN-KUN YOU'RE FINALLY HERE
COME IN
THANK YOU FOR SHOWING ME AROUND
IT WAS NO-THING
KLAUS
I FINALLY FOUND YOU
WHERE'S THAT EXCHANGE STUDENT?
HE'S IN MEETING THE GRASS RIGHT NOW.
SO-
WHAT'S HE LIKE?

WELL YOU SAW HIM RIGHT?
WHAT?
HE TOOK OUT
ALL THOSE STRONG GUYS WITH THAT TINY BODY
YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HIM?
AND
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE LIKE HIM.
HIS HAIR AND EYES ARE LIKE OBSIDIAN

YOU TALKED TO HIM?
!
HE WAS PRETTY CURT
MEH
WOW
ARENT YOU AWFULLY WORKED UP ABOUT THIS?
WELL-
LIKE THE ORIENTAL DOLLS MY GRANDMA USED TO HAVE!
HE'S SO FINE!
I
WANT TO BECOME HIS FRIEND
I WONDER WHAT HIS VOICE IS LIKE-
I REALLY WANT TO HEAR IT

THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT
BEING CLASS-MATES OR COLLEAGUES
YEAH
YOU'RE IN THE SAME SECTION RIGHT?
YOU CAN TALK TO HIM THEN
I WANT TO CALL HIM
MY FRIEND
THAT'S TRUE BUT-
THEY HAVE YET
THAT'S RIGHT
TO SEE THE BATTLE-FIELD

THE GUYS
I HELD DEAR-
ALL OF THEM
HAVE GONE AWAY
OH PLEASE
I DO
I THINK
YOU RE INTERESTING TOO

AND ALSO-
THERE'S SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU
I GET THE FEELING
WHERE DO YOU FIT
WH
THAT DAMN HUGE BODY INSIDE A TANK?
HEY-
OWW!
SORRY!
YOU LITTLE-
WAS THAT GUY
STILL WEARING FATIGUES WHEN HE WENT INTO THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE?
IT WAS A JOKE!
AH-

UH ~~~~
ER-
ONE OF THOSE GUYS
this is what you wear
MUST HAVE TRICKED HIM
well then
ARE YOU OKAY?
DID YOU GET HIT BY AN INSTRUC-TOR?
SILENCE
I'M GONNA SIT
BESIDE YOU

ISN'T THIS JUST LIKE
BABY-SITTING?
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?
AH-
BUT

he's-
warm.
SO
WHAT ELSE?
YEAH AND?
BE KIND TO HIM
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE SOMEONE WHO'S MY JUNIOR
YOU SAY BECOME HIS FRIEND
BUT HOW DO I DO THAT?

IF YOU DON'T KNOW
HOW ABOUT TREATING HIM THE WAY YOU'D TREAT A WOMAN?
ギュッ

WELL
AT ANY RATE.
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M REALLY TREATING HIM LIKE A WOMAN
IT'S
JUST A TOUCH

I DIDN'T NOTICE...
...SORRY ABOUT BEFORE...
I'M SORRY TOO.
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN HUMILIATED LIKE THAT.
...IF I HAD WARNED YOU.

I'M SORRY
I HAVEN'T BEEN VERY MATURE
I TOO SHOULD APOL-OGIZE
NAH THAT'S UH

I DON'T BLAME YOU
I DIDN'T HANDLE IT WELL
I BEHAVED PATHETICALLY
AND TOOK THINGS OUT ON YOU...
ALL THAT STUFF TODAY
WAS TOO MUCH
WE SHOULD
DO OUR BEST TO FIND OUT
THERE'S LOTS
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH EITHER
TAKI
LET'S START OVER
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU...

OKAY
REIZEN-KUN, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
STOMP つか
THOSE GUYS ARE REALLY CRUEL
STOMP つか
I HEARD YOU WERE FEELING DOWN
STOMP つかつ
HERE.
DINGLE ぷら
A PRESENT

稲荷家房之介先生に感想のお便り待ってます！
〒153-0051 東京都目黒区上目黒1-13-6 NMビル3F
コミックアクア 編集部稲荷家房之介先生
HE'S SORRY
FOR THE STUPID TRICK HE PLAYED ON YOU...
YOUR APOLOGY?
...OH COME ON
YOU'RE NO FUN
IT WAS JUST A JOKE
AND YOU'RE ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE
YOU'RE STILL GOING ON ABOUT THAT?!
IT'S OKAY
HE HAS A POINT
I WAS A BIT TOO BRITTLE
I NEED TO GET USED TO IT
REIZEN-KUN
HOW CAN YOU
EVEN SAY THAT?

AND IT'S AN IRON MONSTER
THAT CAN'T BE HANDLED WITH HALF MEASURES
FROM HERE ON
WE'RE GOING TO BE ONE TEAM OPERATING A SINGLE WEAPON–
DRAG EACH OTHER DOWN OVER TRIVIALITIES–
AND WE'LL ALL END UP DEAD
BEFORE WE EVEN LEAVE FOR THE BATTLE-FIELD
EVERYONE
I HAVE SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO HEAR–

FROM A COUNTRY THAT WAS ONCE YOUR ENEMY
I CAME HERE
BUT OUR FEELINGS FOR OUR COUNTRIES
THAT IN AN EMERGENCY WE WILL STAND FIRMLY ON THE FRONT LINES AND DESTROY THE ENEMY-
THOSE FEELINGS ARE THE SAME IN ALL OF US
AN OPPONENT WHO ONCE FOUGHT AND WOUNDED YOU-
COME TO ASK INSTRUCTION
SO
YOU MIGHT THINK THIS IS SELF-SERVING

REIZEN-KUN!!
LITTLE MASTER
NO-
IT'S NOT GONNA BE THAT EASY
I GUESS HE FOUND ONE SYMPATHIZER
WELL
THAT WAS GREAT!
WHAT A WONDERFUL ATTITUDE!!
HMM-
looks like tonight-
there'll be more trouble.
TONIGHT IS THE DARK OF THE MOON.
THE NEW MOON.
アクア 4月号に続く
NEXT

Maiden Rose

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コミックアクア

vol.48

春を告げる♡
稲荷家房之介◆美麗図書カ
応募者全員サービス実施♡

2009
4月号

定価690円

ビジュアルミニコミック
[illegible]ヒル

新刊 これくしょん

大人の恋は突然に…!! 【君は元気でしたか?】
今市子

押し掛けネコ女房♡【俺のミー子】
吉池マスコ

ト☆ツンデレ【春来たりなば】
[illegible]のおあき

[illegible]!? 【[illegible]】
[illegible]

[illegible]れったすぎる男心♡【大人のプライド】
[illegible]UKKA

[illegible]ちょい[illegible]P【男たちの[illegible]】
[illegible]九州男[illegible]

ニュー[illegible]び参上!!【お[illegible]ご乱行】
[illegible]沢キュピオ

ファイナル☆【[illegible]アンルーレット】
[illegible]アシタトモコ

稲荷家房之介
水名瀬雅良

巻頭カラー 青海信濃

カラー 桃川よろか

カラー 高倉知子

橋本あおい

藤井咲耶

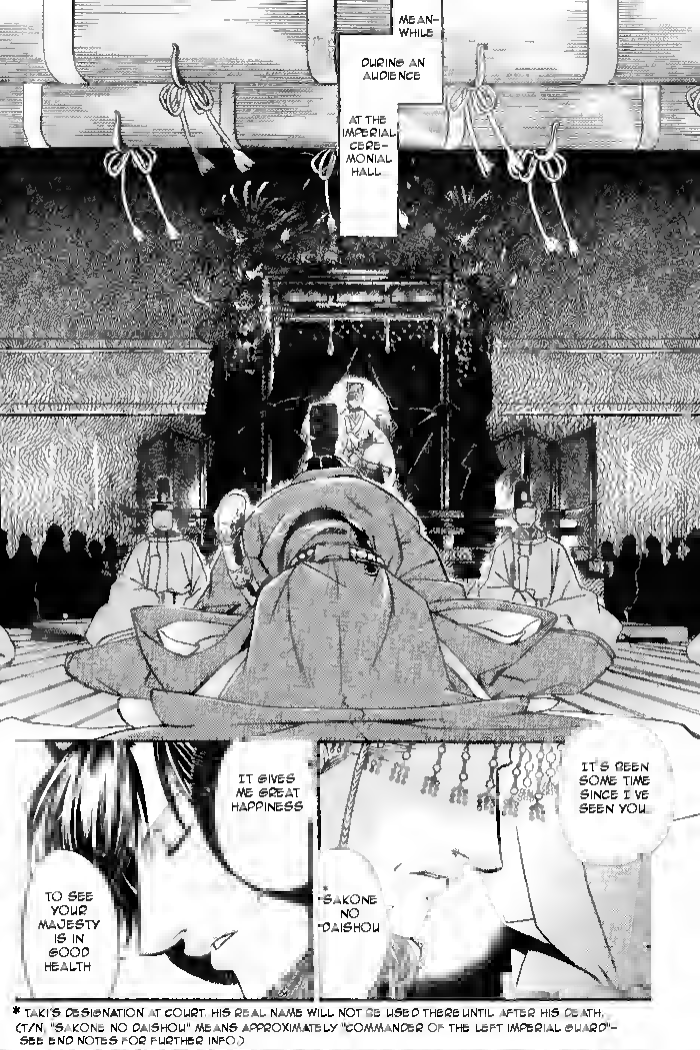
百日の薔薇
HEY SIS
WHAT A SURPRISE!
WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?
JUST NOW
KLAUS!
HOW VE YOU BEEN?
AND YOU, ANNA– IT'S BEEN A WHILE

【これまでのあらすじ】タキの一挙一動に手を焼くクラウスだったが、彼の強さや優しさに触れ、次第に好感を持ちはじめる。新しい味方も増えたタキだったが、また一騒動ありそうな予感が……。

【タキ・レイゼン】神代から続く一族・レイゼン家の当主。兵器の購入や使いかたを学ぶため、機甲学校に留学する。
【クラウス・フォン・ヴォルフシュタット】タキの学友。今は留学してきたタキを監視するよう、神殿から命ぜられている。
THE JOB I TOOK THIS TIME-
I'M NOT REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO IT
NAH
IT'S JUST
HOW DO I PUT THIS...
SOMETHING ABOUT IT
FEELS WEIRD...
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING DANGEROUS NOW
BUT I'M FINE

AAH-
WHEN-EVER I COME HERE...
THE ROSES ARE ALWAYS SO BEAUTIFUL

the gentle memories
are now also far away-
やさしい記憶も今は遠く――
Fusanosuke Inariya
稲荷家房之介
百日の薔薇



* TAKI'S DESIGNATION AT COURT. HIS REAL NAME WILL NOT BE USED THERE UNTIL AFTER HIS DEATH. (T/N: "SAKONE NO DAISHOU" MEANS APPROXIMATELY "COMMANDER OF THE LEFT IMPERIAL GUARD"- SEE END NOTES FOR FURTHER INFO.)

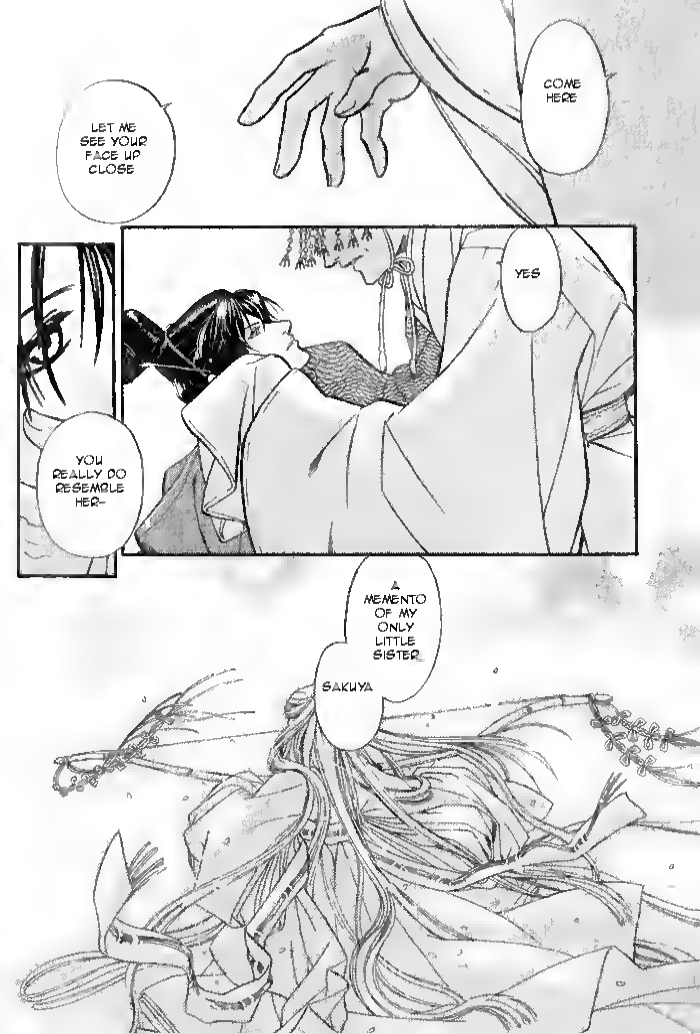
IT'S BEEN A YEAR ALREADY SINCE YOU LEFT THE PREFECTURE
I'M RELIEVED TO SEE YOU ARE DOING WELL
IT'S BEEN LIKE ONE OF OUR FLOWERS HAD DISAPPEARED.
UKON NO TACHIBANA HAS MISSED YOU AS WELL
AND I HEAR IN JUNE YOU'LL BE GOING EVEN FURTHER AWAY
YES—
TO THE WEST TO STUDY THEIR NEW MILITARY TACTICS AND STRATEGY

THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE OUR BITTER ENEMIES DURING THE GREAT WAR
AND DIDN'T THEY ALSO DESECRATE YOUR TERRITORY HORRIBLY?
IS THAT REALLY THE KIND OF OPPONENT TO ASK INSTRUCTION FROM?
ALL THE MORE REASON TO.

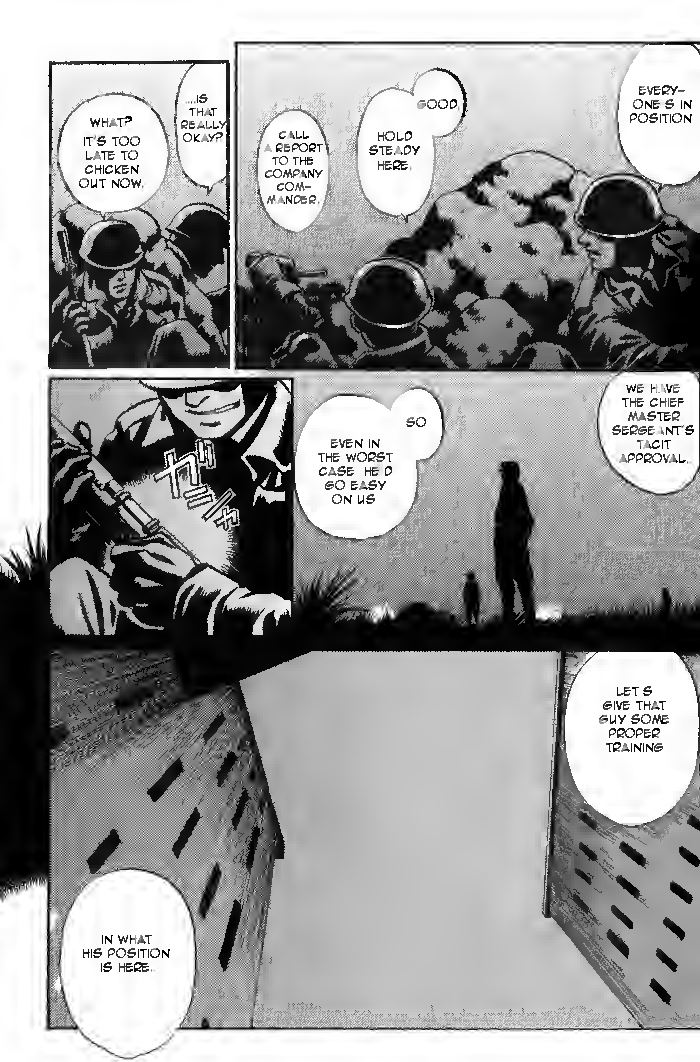
YET IF I COMPARE THE STRENGTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL NATIONS
IN THAT WAR OUR COUNTRY
I DON'T THINK OURS IS THE ONLY ONE THAT IS LACKING
WASN'T ABLE TO MAKE IT THROUGH
SO WHY WAS THE OUTCOME DIFFERENT FOR US THAN FOR THE OTHERS?
WITHOUT EUROTE'S POWER
I WANT TO SEE THE REASON FOR MYSELF
WITH MY OWN EYES

YOU'RE STILL YOUNG
DON'T YOU HAVE A LOT LEFT
TO LEARN IN THIS COUNTRY?
THE SAME CAREFULLY CONSIDERED DECISIONS
THAT KEPT US FROM BEING ERADICATED COMPLETELY
SAKONE NO DAISHOU
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS MAKING A MOCKERY
OF THE LATE EMPEROR'S WARTIME DECISIONS–
THAT'S WHY I WANT WHAT I CAN EARN
WITH MY OWN EYES, HANDS AND FEET
THAT'S RIGHT
I'M INEXPERIENCED
I ONLY KNOW THE TINY BIT I'VE HEARD FROM OTHERS
SOMETHING OF MY OWN
I CAN BE PROUD OF
SOMETHING CERTAIN–

IF YOUR HEART IS THAT SET ON IT
IT CAN'T BE HELPED
TRULY YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER
AS DIGNIFIED AND GRACEFUL AS A FLOWER
BUT PASSIONATE BY NATURE


COME HERE
LET ME SEE YOUR FACE UP CLOSE
YES
YOU REALLY DO RESEMBLE HER–
A MEMENTO OF MY ONLY LITTLE SISTER
SAKUYA

I'VE LIVED MY LIFE KNOWING NOTHING
BUT THIS SMALL ISLAND AND CALM SEA
WHEN YOU RETURN, EYES FILLED WITH THE THINGS YOU'VE SEEN–
SAKONE NO DAISHOU
TELL ALL OF IT TO ME
I WILL
HE'S NOT YET AWARE
TO CROSS AN UNKNOWN LAND
YEARNING FOR "SOMETHING"
OF THE REASON
FOR THAT DRIVE


...IS THAT REALLY OKAY?
WHAT? IT'S TOO LATE TO CHICKEN OUT NOW.
EVERY-ONE'S IN POSITION
GOOD.
HOLD STEADY HERE.
CALL A REPORT TO THE COMPANY COM-MANDER.
WE HAVE THE CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT'S TACIT APPROVAL.
SO
EVEN IN THE WORST CASE HE'D GO EASY ON US
LET'S GIVE THAT GUY SOME PROPER TRAINING
IN WHAT HIS POSITION IS HERE...

CAN'T SLEEP?
YOU'RE AWAKE, RIGHT?
HEH
AS IF
YOU FINALLY SPOKE
WHAT'S WRONG?
HOMESICK ALREADY?

DON'T MAKE THAT SCARY FACE AT ME
YOU HAD ME A LITTLE WORRIED IS ALL. OKAY?
YOU HAVEN'T SAID WORD
SINCE AFTER THAT TROUBLE BEFORE

SO–
YOU'RE JUST NOT TIRED
IT'S NOTHING
OKAY
AT LEAST CLOSE YOUR EYES THOUGH

THAT ALONE WILL GIVE YOUR BODY SOME DECENT REST
THAT'S NOT WHY
AM I KEEPING YOU UP TOO MAYBE?
YOU CAN'T SLEEP EITHER?
IT JUST SEEMS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE A LONG NIGHT

SPECIAL MUSTER!

THAT WAS FASTER THAN I EXPECTED!

!

WHAT IS IT?

LIKE A SURPRISE NIGHT DRILL

TAKI-

YOUR MILITARY TRAINING?

THE USUAL

GOOD

THAT'S FINE THEN

he's
even smaller than i thought.

OKAY!
THANKS!
HEY! HURRY UP YOU GUYS!
AND THERE'S AN ORDER FOR RIFLES TOO!
SHIT
HE'S LIKE A KID
WILL THE MARCH EVEN BE BEARABLE WITH THAT BODY?
TAKI-
THIS WILL BE
YOUR LEAD-OFF BATTLE
YOU HAVE TO BE STRONG ENOUGH TO GET THROUGH THIS
FOR ANYONE
TO ACCEPT YOU AS A SOLDIER
HOWEVER MANY PRETTY SPEECHES YOU MAKE

稲荷家房之介先生に感想のお便り待ってます！

〒153 (005) 東京都目黒区上目黒1-18-6 NMビル3F
コミックアクア編集部 稲荷家房之介先生

GOT IT

GOOD

THAT'S THE FACE I LIKE

LET'S GO

I'LL COVER FOR YOU AS MUCH AS I CAN

ふっ

flowers...?

DID I LEAVE THE WINDOW OPEN?

WELL WHATEVER
LET'S MOVE OUT
NEXT

taki's family

"a memento of my only little sister" (ch. 15, p. 12)

The compound 忘れ形見 ('wasure gatami') can mean "a memento or keepsake from a dead person", which is how I translated it here, but that's not really exactly what it means in this context. It also means "a child who is born subsequent to the death of one of his parents (a posthumous child)", or sometimes just "orphan". One of these two meanings would have been closer to a literal translation. Unfortunately, at this point in the story, it's impossible to tell which.

There have been several hints in the story already that Taki's mother is dead, so the Emperor's statement here pretty much confirms it. But whether or not Taki's father is still alive hasn't been addressed yet.

I considered avoiding the issue by just saying "the son of my only little sister", but that leaves out the main point of the conversation: that Taki reminds the Emperor of his sister (Taki's mother), and that she's dead. Since that's exactly what a memento is for, I decided to use "memento".

"Memento" works well on a thematic level too, since a memento is generally an object valued for its connection to the deceased, rather than for its own intrinsic worth, which is the root of Taki's problems in Maiden Rose. But it is true that my word choice probably objectifies Taki somewhat more than the Emperor intended.

(And yes, all this does also mean that Taki is the Emperor's nephew.)

"stay close by mother's side" (ch. 14, p. 03)

The pronunciation guide here reads "haha-ue", a very formal term for "mother", but the kanji read "gibo", which in this context could mean either "step mother" or "foster/adoptive mother", thereby leaving me with the same problem as the one above. So, what Taki says to Yura is "stay close by mother's side", but what he means is his step/adoptive/whatever mother's side.

are all these kids really taki's brothers and sisters?

Except for Tachibana, they're probably all either his step siblings or his adoptive siblings. Yura calls him "nii-sama" (a very respectful/formal version of "older brother") and addressing the younger children, he calls himself "nii-sama" and Yura "Yura-nee-sama" (her name plus the equivalent term for "older sister").

But since "older sister" and "older brother" are acceptable terms for non-related people who are somewhat older than the speaker, it's also theoretically possible that they're not all actually related.

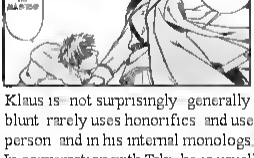
taki's court position

in pre-meiji RL japan (before 1868), it was considered rude to refer to people by their actual names. Instead, people were usually referred to by nicknames, the name of the place they or their family lived, or by their own or an ancestor's position in society. This is still true of the Imperial family of RL Japan today. The Emperor, for example, is referred to by title while alive and by the name of the era he presided over after he dies.

Taki's court designation, sakone no daishou, which means roughly "Commander of the Left Imperial Guard", is a historical pre-Meiji court position, the head of half [or maybe a quarter - it's confusing] of the palace guard. Whether this was Taki's actual job prior to the start of the story or not, only Inariya knows so far. (For an excellent article on the amazing complexity of pre-Meiji naming conventions in RL Japan, see: http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/fl20091011x1.html)

formal, informal & literary language

it's a common misconception that Japanese is vague and nebulous while English is clear and concrete. Actually, the two languages are just vague about different things. One example of an area where Japanese is very clear, while English (especially American English) is notoriously vague, is social position. Another related area is formality and informality in speech and writing. Although it wouldn't be correct to say there are no variations in formality in English speech and writing, the much more obviously wide range of formality possible in Japanese is difficult to convey naturally in English.



In Maiden Rose, most of the variation in formality is what one might expect. Taki's staff uses keigo (very formal/respectful speech) when talking to or about Taki, and Taki uses keigo when talking to the Emperor. He's less formal but polite with his staff, and usually relatively informal but polite with Klaus (except when he's ordering Klaus around).

Klaus is, not surprisingly, generally informal with everyone, and often none too polite either. He's blunt, rarely uses honorifics, and uses slang even with his superiors. But he's also a complex person, and in his internal monologs, speaks in a more literary, sometimes almost lyrical style. In conversation with Taki, he is usually casual, but his more literary internal style also occassionally leaks through, and his "my Master" for Taki is very formal (the only time he ever uses a formal pronoun), as is Taki's "my Knight" for him.